



STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE LICENSE OF	:	Administrative Action
	:	
	:	FINAL ORDER
	:	OF DISCIPLINE
HOPE T. RICHARDSON, R.N.	:	
License # 26NR11716000	:	
	:	
	:	
TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE	:	
STATE OF NEW JERSEY	:	

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information which the Board has reviewed and upon which the following findings of fact and conclusions of law are made:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Hope T. Richardson ("Respondent") is a Registered Professional Nurse in the State of New Jersey and has been a licensee at all times relevant hereto.

2. On or about April 6, 2014, Respondent completed and submitted an online biennial renewal application which asked whether Respondent would have "completed the required continuing education credits by May 31, 2014" referring to the biennial renewal period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. Respondent was also asked whether she completed the required course on Organ

and Tissue Donation. Respondent answered "yes" to both questions and certified the answers by submitting the online application.

3. By letter dated July 21, 2014, the Board asked Respondent to provide proof of continuing education completed within the last three years, which included the biennial renewal period from June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014.

4. On or about October 2, 2014, Respondent provided two certificates of completion for the following continuing education:

1 hour within the 6/1/12 - 5/31/14 biennial period; and

7 hours within the 6/1/14 - 5/31/16 biennial period.

Respondent failed to submit any documentation that she had completed the required course on Organ and Tissue Donation. Respondent indicated that she planned to take more continuing education. No further response was received.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b), nurses are required to complete a minimum of thirty (30) hours of continuing education during the preceding biennial period in order to renew their licenses. Pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(f), nurses are required to maintain documentation of completion of continuing

education for a period of four years after completion, and shall submit such documentation to the Board upon request.

Respondent failed to demonstrate, to the satisfaction of the Board, that Respondent completed the continuing education credits required for renewal during the biennial period of June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2014. The Board therefore finds Respondent in violation of N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3(b) and 13:37-5.3(f), which in turn subjects Respondent to sanctions pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e) and (h).

Respondent's use of dishonesty and misrepresentation during the license renewal process in falsifying her continuing education information constitutes a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(b), subjecting Respondent to sanctions.

Based on the foregoing findings and conclusions, a Provisional Order of Discipline was entered on September 10, 2015, provisionally suspending respondent's nursing license and imposing a reprimand and a \$250 civil penalty. A copy of the Order was served upon respondent by certified and regular mail at her address of record. The Provisional Order was subject to finalization by the Board at 5:00 p.m. on the 30th day following entry unless respondent requested a modification or dismissal of the stated Findings of Fact or Conclusions of Law by submitting a written request for modification or dismissal setting forth in

writing any and all reasons why said findings and conclusions should be modified or dismissed and submitting any and all documents or other written evidence supporting respondent's request for consideration and reasons therefor.

Ms. Richardson replied to the Provisional Order. She has documented completion of a total of one contact hour of required continuing education completed during the 2012-2014 licensing cycle, and belated completion of thirty eight (38) contact hours of required continuing education completed subsequent to May 31, 2014. As respondent has belatedly satisfied continuing education requirements (including the course in organ and tissue donation) suspension is no longer applicable. However, Ms. Richardson did not timely complete continuing education requirements for the 2012-2014 licensing cycle, and engaged in misrepresentation with regard to continuing education on the 2014 renewal application. Accordingly, the Board determined that the reprimand and \$250 civil penalty should be imposed upon finalization of the Provisional Order.

ACCORDINGLY, IT IS on this 11th day of January, 2016,
ORDERED that:

1. A reprimand is imposed on Respondent for falsifying the continuing education information on her license renewal application.

2. Respondent is assessed a civil penalty in the amount of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250) for failing to timely complete required continuing education. Payment shall be made by certified check, bank cashier check, or money order payable to "State of New Jersey," or by wire transfer, direct deposit, or credit card payment delivered or mailed to Leslie Burgos, Board Staff, State Board of Nursing, P.O. Box 45010, Newark, New Jersey 07101. Any other form of payment will be rejected and will be returned to the party making the payment. Payment shall be made no later than fifteen (15) days after the date of filing of this order. In the event Respondent fails to make a timely payment, a certificate of debt shall be filed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:1-24 and the Board may bring such other proceedings as authorized by law.

3. Only nine hours of the continuing education completed by respondent in September of 2015 may be applied towards satisfaction of respondent's continuing education obligation for the 2014-2016 licensing cycle.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: Patricia Murphy PhD APN
Patricia Murphy, PhD, APN
Board President